

MINUTES

Executive meeting, teleconference.

Thursday 9th June 2011
9:00am WA SDT



1. Present.

Trevor James (TJ) – President
Michael Widderick (MW) – Vice president
Kerry Harrington (KH) – Secretary / NZ
Alex Douglas (AD) – Treasurer (left early)
Sandy Lloyd (SL) – Past President (arrived late)
Alan Barton (AB) – Tas
Sheree Edwards (SE) – SA
Warwick Felton (WF) – NSW
Michael Hansford (MH) – Vic
Rachel Melland (RM) – SA
Anna-Marie Penna (AMP) – WA
Ian Popay (IP) – NZ
Rex Stanton (RS) – NSW
Steve Walker (SW) - Qld

2. Apologies.

Catherine Borger (CB) – WA
Marty Bower (MB) – Tas
John Burley (JB) – Vic
Dorean Erhart (DE) – Qld

3. Additions/Alterations to the agenda.

Item 11.8 added regarding RM representing CAWS on RIRDC Weeds Portal Steering Committee. Also a report on the Asian-Pacific Weed Conference to be made by RM.

4. Conflict of interest declarations.

No conflicts of interest were declared, apart from some people knowing applicants for the Early Career Travel Award.

5. Adoption of the minutes from 3 March 2011.

No corrections made.

Motion # 6/11 01. TJ moved from the chair that the minutes be accepted.
Unanimously accepted.

6. Business arising from previous minutes.

6.1 Travel reports on to website

IP asked about progress with getting travel reports on to the web-site.

Action. TJ will check with the last of the authors that they are happy for their reports to be made public then organise for them all to appear on the CAWS website.

6.2 CAWS Website

RM asked that photos put on the site be with the permission of the person involved rather than random ones being selected from the internet.

Action. Those committee members who have not got their photos and short biographies on to the web-site yet need to do this, either directly to John Kean or to TJ or KH.

6.3 Strategic Report

TJ reported that work has not started on this yet as the sub-committee involved have been focusing on the constitutional review.

7. President's Report.

This was pre-circulated and taken as read.

Motion # 6/11 02. TJ moved from the chair that the report be adopted. Unanimously accepted.

8. Treasurer's Report.

This was pre-circulated. The CAWS share of the profit from the conference in NZ has now been received. AD reported that a recent teleconference with the sub-committee (done through Eureka) cost only \$39. Wallet cards have been received from the phone company for each committee member with pin numbers required for teleconferences. It was agreed that AD will post these directly to each delegate and that KH would collect together postal addresses for delegates and send these to AD. The postal addresses will not be put on the web-site. AD asked if the three term deposits she has set up since the last meeting should be rolled over when they mature. After some discussion it was agreed that AD should make enquiries each time investments matured as to whether better rates can be obtained within the same bank at different maturity dates before rolling them over, and ensuring that maturity dates remain staggered. All societies have now paid their membership fees to CAWS. As AD was unwell, she then left the meeting.

Motion # 6/11 03. TJ moved that the report be adopted. Seconded by SW. Unanimously accepted.

9. Correspondence

The only item was the travel report from Eleanor Dormontt, which has been circulated and will now be put on to the web-site.

10. Reports from Member Societies.

The reports from member societies are compiled in a separate document circulated with these minutes.

10.1. Report from SA

Presented by RM. She then reported also on the Asian Pacific Weeds Conference planning. There had been concerns over the amount of sponsorship that had been found, but they have just found four further sponsors, so there are less concerns now. Organisers wish to assure CAWS that their loan will be repaid. The Very Early Bird registrations have now closed. Information about the conference will be e-mailed out soon to each of the CAWS member societies, so it is hoped each society will then send this out to their respective members. Over 200 paper abstracts have been received, and so far there are over 50 oral presenters who have paid their registrations, and 30 poster presenters. The conference will now be shorter to allow for reduced interest, with no session on Sunday or Friday (so the conference will be from Monday to Thursday).

(SL joined the meeting)

10.2. Report from Vic

Presented by MH. On-line registration is now open for the next CAWS conference. AB asked MH to send him a Word version of the conference time-line to help Tasmania organise the following conference.

10.3. Report from NSW

Presented by RS.

10.4. Report from WA

Presented by AMP.

10.5. Report from NZ

Presented by TJ. He was asked when the final report for the NZ CAWS conference will be written. TJ explained they had been waiting for payment from the last of their sponsors, which has just arrived, so he hopes to have the report written within the next few weeks.

10.6. Report from Tas

Presented by AB.

10.7. Report from Qld

Presented by SW. AMP asked if their Qld Weeds Symposium which has low registrations should be merged with the Asian-Pacific Weeds Conference, but SW replied that the two conferences cater for entirely different audiences.

11. General Business.

11.1. Recommendations for Early Career Travel Awards

SW presented the decisions of the sub-committee that was formed (which also included SL and AB) to decide who should receive these awards (as outlined in a pre-circulated report). There was discussion as to why Ronny Groenteman will only receive NZ\$1000 yet Jenna Malone and Carol Rolando will both get A\$2000. SW explained this was because Ronny only asked for NZ\$1000, but that she had also sought money from other funding bodies to cover the rest of her costs. It was decided to ask Ronny if she had been successful with her other applications, and if she hasn't, to ask her to re-submit her application requesting NZ\$2000.

Motion # 6/11 04. SW moved that in the meantime the recommendation of their report be adopted, to support the three applicants to attend their nominated conferences, for a total of approximately A\$4800, and that each recipient be requested to present a report and/or deliver a presentation to the State Society on their return. Seconded by AB. Unanimously accepted.

11.2 Financial support for "The Weed News"

NSW feel that David Low (DL) should receive \$2000 financial support from CAWS for his work with presenting his electronic newsletter and web-site "The Weed News" following his request for financial support on 15 September 2010. There was much discussion on this issue. TJ asked whether DL would be willing to include material from CAWS members if given our support. RM queried as to whether he still needs the funding since he recently received funding from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) to help set up a national weeds web-site there which may replace his one. SL preferred to see CAWS develop its own newsletter by paying a professional newsletter editor. The meeting decided that the agenda item be deferred while more information is sought on whether DL still requires funding for his site, or whether his site will be replaced by the RIRDC site.

Motion # 6/11 05. RS moved that David Low be contacted to determine if he is still seeking funding from CAWS for his newsletter, and if he is, that CAWS give him a single payment of \$2000 to support his work. Seconded by WF.

It was decided to defer voting on the motion until TJ has contacted DL to ask:

- (1) is funding still being sought?
- (2) is he looking at just a single payment of \$2000?
- (3) could CAWS put a logo on the site and contribute articles?
- (4) how will the newsletter be sent to CAWS members if funded?

TJ will report back to the committee after which the motion will be voted on via e-mail.

11.3 Frequency of Australasian Weeds Conferences

SW presented the agenda item on behalf of Qld who feel frequency of the conference should move back to 3-yearly instead of 2-yearly. Much discussion occurred. TJ considers that funding from employing bodies is annual so frequency of conferences should not affect whether people wishing to attend will get funded to attend. He also considered that conferences that

become too infrequent are less likely to be supported as people get into the habit of going to more frequent conferences to deliver research outputs. A change to a less expensive format of the conference might be a better option, such as having the field trips voluntary and at the end of the conference so the venue is not left empty for a day. SL said that where employers are wanting employees to go to less conferences, it would be better if conferences occur more frequently so they may be on in the year that employees are allowed to attend. RS felt that as a decision does not need to be made quickly (because if frequency was changed, it would not change for several years) that we wait until the next conference in Melbourne to see if a change in frequency is really required. TJ agreed this needs to be a continuing discussion over the next year or so. WF suggested having 3-yearly general conferences with more specialised ones between them. RS pointed out that less frequent conferences means less revenue coming in for CAWS, so expenses would need to be reduced. TJ feels profits can be increased from conferences by reducing costs at each conference such as day trips and satchels, similar to the model used by NZPPS for their annual conference. It was decided to defer further discussion until after the conference in Melbourne, but to have a questionnaire at this conference asking delegates what costs they would be prepared to have reduced and their thoughts on conference frequency.

11.4 Bid by WA to host 7th International Weeds Conference

SL reported that within the next few weeks the international body will select the best two or three bids, and these will be voted on at next year's IWC.

11.5 CAWS Orator for herbicide resistance conference

SL enquired on behalf of Steve Powles as to whether CAWS would be interested in considering a proposal to fund a CAWS Orator for the international herbicide resistance conference he is organising in Perth for February 2013. The meeting decided that such a proposal would be considered seriously if presented to the committee.

11.6 19th Australasian Weeds Conference in Tasmania in 2014

TJ enquired of AB if Tas have decided yet whether they will definitely host the AWC in 2014. AB explained their society is in a rebuilding phase at present after a fairly inactive period. They are focusing on organising their own local conference for early 2012 but intend discussing whether they definitely will host the AWC in 2014 at their next committee meeting. TJ pointed out that using a conference organising company such as EventCorp makes organising conferences quite easy nowadays. AB mentioned their society is in a good financial state and will let TJ know their decision after their next meeting.

11.7 Constitutional review update

TJ reported that the review sub-committee (John Virtue, TJ, RS, MW) has now got the proposed changes to the constitution to a stage where these can be discussed by each member society, hopefully with comments to be fed back from these committees in time for the September meeting. IP congratulated the sub-committee for getting the process to this stage.

11.8 Representation of CAWS on RIRDC Steering Committee

RM has been asked to represent CAWS on a steering committee planning a national weeds web portal funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC). The meeting was happy that she undertake this role.

12. Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Thursday 8th September 9 am WAST.

Meeting closed at 10.50 am WAST.

Appendix - Results of E-mail Voting.

Tuesday 21st June 2011

As a result of Ronny Groenteman being unsuccessful with her other applications for funding for her overseas conference, she sent a revised version of her funding application to TJ. This resulted in the following motion being tabled via e-mail.

Motion # 6/11 06. SW moved that the revised travel application by Ronny Groenteman dated 10 June 2011, be accepted and replace her application of 15 April, and that the approved value of the travel granted awarded to her at the meeting of the CAWS Executive committee on 9 June 2011, be increased from NZ\$1000 to NZ\$2000. Seconded by WF.

Ten members of the committee voted via e-mail on the motion, and all voted in favour of the motion so the motion is passed.

The voting members were:

Michael Widderick (VP)
Anna-Marie Penna (WA)
Kerry Harrington (NZ)
Sheree Edwards (SA)
Rachel Melland (SA)
Alan Barton (Tas)
Steve Walker (Qld)
Ian Popay (NZ)
Warwick Felton (NSW)
Michael Hansford (Vic)